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Washington Will Press Sinai Plan On Israel If Moscow Accepts It

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1 (JTA)--The State Department will press Israel to accept its latest peace proposals---but only if the Soviet Union accepts the formulation, it was learned today in official quarters. Should Moscow agree with the concept communicated by the U.S. to the U.S.S.R. last Oct. 28, the U.S. Government would strongly urge Israel to go along. Officials hope that an affirmative Soviet response is received in time to allow for pressure on Israel prior to the Dec. 20 Arab summit conference in Rabat, Morocco.

The U.S. plan envisages an Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai territories occupied in June, 1967, in exchange for a "binding commitment" from President Nasser to establish peace. Israel and Egypt would use the so-called "Rhodes formula" to achieve "practical security arrangements" for the Gaza strip and Sharm-El Sheikh.

Israel Challenges Moral Right Of Soviet Union To Participate In Mideast Talks

JERUSALEM, Dec. 1 (JTA)--The Foreign Ministry has denounced a statement issued by the Soviet Union and five Warsaw Pact countries last week reaffirming their support of the Arabs in the Middle East conflict. The Ministry said that the statement, published by the official Soviet news agency Tass on Nov. 27, was "a further contribution of the Soviet Union to the perpetuation of the dispute in the Middle East."

The Foreign Ministry noted that it was issued against the background of President Gamal Abdel Nasser's bellicose speech to the Egyptian National Assembly and on the eve of the Arab summit conference at Rabat, Morocco. "The content of the Soviet statement and the timing of its publication were calculated to help Nasser rally the Arab states around his aggressive designs," the Israeli Ministry said.

"With all of her pretensions to advocacy of a so-called peaceful settlement, the government of the Soviet Union has never declared that the Arab states and Israel should prepare a genuine peace among themselves with a view to putting an end, once and for all, to the war which the Arab governments have waged against Israel for 20 years," the Foreign Ministry declared. "It is clear that a government whose policy is expressed in this Soviet document has no moral right to be a partner and cannot be a positive and unprejudiced factor in discussions and consultations on the preparations of a Middle East peace--discussions which affect the essential interests of the State of Israel."

Israelis See United States A Reluctant Partner In Today's Big Four Talks

JERUSALEM, Dec. 1 (JTA)--Diplomatic circles here believe that the United States was quite unwilling to resume the Four Power talks on the Middle East which begin anew in New York tomorrow but was unable to find a way out of them. According to these circles, Washington could not very well refuse to resume the consultations with the USSR, Britain and France because its bilateral discussions with the Soviet Union on the Middle East appear hopelessly deadlocked.

Israeli diplomats are most apprehensive over the role that France will play in the renewed Big Four deliberations. They note that Paris has made it quite clear that in matters of foreign policy, the Pompidou regime follows the lines laid down by former President Charles De Gaulle. Israelis fear that France may renew its proposal for a timetable to implement the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Middle East resolution. Israel rejects the timetable concept and insists that the resolution is not self-implementing.

According to the Israelis, the resolution merely lays down the principles upon which agreement between the two sides should be reached. In the Israeli view, agreement is the key word. But France's stand has been closer to that of the Soviet Union which has agreed to a "package deal" but insists that Israel withdraw to the 1949 armistice lines before the deal becomes effective. The United States has rejected the Soviet stand. Israelis hope it will continue to stand firm against pressure that might be brought to bear by the three other powers.

Mrs. Meir Is Given Another Ten Days In Which To Complete Cabinet Negotiations

JERUSALEM, Dec. 1 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir has been given ten more days to establish a new national coalition government. President Zalman Shazar granted the extension at Mrs. Meir's request last night after she reported her failure to form a government during the 21 days allotted to her. Should she fail to complete the Cabinet in another 21 days, she will have to relinquish her mandate and President Shazar would ask another political leader to assume the task.

Mrs. Meir continued her coalition talks Sunday with Gahal (Herut-Liberal Alignment) and the Independent Liberals. The latter were reportedly promised the Ministry of Tourism which is presently headed by Moshe Kol. Mr. Kol also heads the Development Ministry which will probably go to another party. The chief obstacle to Mrs. Meir's efforts has been the refusal of Mapam to join a coalition with Gahal based on a joint program. The left-wing Mapam, junior partner in Mrs. Meir's Labor Party Alignment, is opposed to the foreign and domestic policies of the rightist, nationalist Gahal which emerged from the Oct. 28 national elections as Israel's second largest party. Mapam fears that the policies of

the outgoing national coalition would be altered by Gahal influence. But even if the policies remain the same, Mapam leaders refuse to accept the assignment of key ministries to Gahal. In the outgoing government the latter held only two ministerial posts without portfolio.

Gahal has demanded six ministries if the National Religious Party gets three and insists that they include what Gahal leaders call "serious ministries." Mapam argues that once a ministry is controlled by Gahal it will be run in accordance with Gahal concepts, regardless of what coalition policies may be. Mrs. Meir was scheduled to meet with Mapam leaders today.

Aranne Rejects NRP Demand For Deputy Minister With Special Powers

JERUSALEM, Dec.1(JTA)--Education Minister Zalman Aranne today flatly rejected a demand by the National Religious Party for the post of deputy minister of education with special powers in the new coalition government yet to be formed. Mr. Aranne declared that there can be only one minister in any ministry. He said that according to Israeli law, the minister appoints his deputy or deputies and determines what their duties are.

He dismissed as falsehood an NRP claim that religious schools within the state educational system were discriminated against in the allocation of new school construction. Mr. Aranne said that while the religious schools accounted for only 38 percent of the elementary school population, they have been allotted two-thirds of all new buildings erected since the State education law came into effect. Israel has two state-supported school systems, one general and the other religious.

Israel Maintains Air Pressure On Egypt To Block Escalation Moves

TEL AVIV, Dec.1(JTA)--Israel Air Force jets hit targets in Egypt and in Jordan this morning and returned safely to their bases. A military spokesman said the attacks on Egyptian positions and military installations on the west bank of the Suez Canal lasted ten minutes. In Jordan, the planes struck at guerrilla bases following an attack on an Israeli patrol in the Beisan Valley.

Israeli circles said today that the continuing air strikes against Egyptian positions were aimed at forestalling possible Egyptian attempts to mobilize for all-out war. They said the air attacks made it clear to Cairo that Israel retains superiority in the air and that a confrontation with Israeli forces under those circumstances would be disastrous for Egypt. The Israeli circles dismissed Egyptian counter air raids on the Sinai as of negligible military value. They are on a small scale, involve few aircraft and are intended mainly to boost morale on the home front. Egyptian troops hit by Israeli air raids begin to wonder where Egypt's air force is and so Egypt is forced to mount token attacks on Israeli positions which so far have been unsuccessful, the Israeli circles said.

Other sources here said today that no Russian-made MIG-23s flown by Egyptians have been seen in the skies far. The plane is Russia's newest interceptor. The same sources said that the Egyptians have not yet received the new Soviet T-62 tanks but Cairo is on the verge of receiving a Russian-made ground-to-ground missile with a 50 mile range. They said the missiles would have been dangerous had Egypt received them in 1967 and set them up in the Gaza Strip in easy range of Tel Aviv. Under the present circumstance they pose no danger to populated areas of Israel, the sources said.

An army spokesman today denied a Time magazine report that Israel is in possession of a Soviet Sukhov-7 bomber in operative condition and has allowed Western experts to inspect it. The spokesman said there was no Sukhov aircraft in flying condition in Israeli hands and reports to that effect were "completely false."

Two Israeli Arabs Held In Saboteur Roundup; Had Tried To Kill Allon

TEL AVIV, Dec.1(JTA)--Two more Israeli Arabs were arrested over the week end in a round up of saboteurs and were charged, among other things, with an attempt to assassinate Deputy Premier Yigal Allon. The accused live near Kfar Saba. They were apprehended along with other suspects who have been operating in an area close to the former Israel-Jordan border.

The Israeli Arabs are accused of having planted explosives at a Tel Aviv bus stop which killed the owner of a kiosk nearby and other explosives that damaged a railroad line near Kfar Saba. They are also accused of having placed explosives near the rostrum in Raanana where Mr. Allon was scheduled to speak during the recent election campaign.

The growing number of Israeli Arabs involved in sabotage and terrorist activities has created mounting concern in Israeli circles. The Attorney-General is considering a change of policy that would make Israeli Arabs accused of sabotage liable to trial by military rather than civilian courts. Proposals have already been made to re-impose military government on the Arab areas of Israel. This was rejected last week by Deputy Premier Allon. He said generalizations were dangerous and that Israeli Arabs as a whole were not involved with saboteurs and terrorists, only a relatively few individuals who cooperated with El Fatah. He said the authorities had the means and power to combat this on an individual basis without imposing restrictions on the Arab population of Israel.

23 Israelis Were Killed In Border, Sabotage Activities In November

TEL AVIV, Dec.1(JTA)--The government reported today that 22 Israeli soldiers and one civilian were killed during November as a result of enemy activities along the borders and cease-fire lines and the activities of saboteurs. Seventy-four Israelis were injured of whom 63 were soldiers. The fatalities were slightly higher in November than in October when 18 were killed. But 125 Israelis were injured in the latter month.

The tally of border incidents for November showed the Egyptian front to be by far the most active. There were 342 incidents there from Nov.9-29. The Jordanian front reported 169 incidents between Nov.16-29. There were only ten incidents along the Lebanese and Syrian frontiers between Nov.9-29.

A military spokesman said that Saturday night's Egyptian attack on Israeli positions on the east bank of the Suez Canal was not necessarily an indication that Egypt was escalating its warfare. He said the Egyptians were probing to find the most effective ways of waging their war of attrition against

Israel. "There might be ups and downs and this week saw one of the ups, but there was no escalation,"

Government Asks For Funds For 4,000 Additional Immigrant Housing Units

JERUSALEM, Dec.1(JTA)--The Knesset finance committee is considering a government request to increase the allocation for immigrant housing during the coming year in order to meet an anticipated heavy increase in the number of settlers. Four thousand additional housing units are needed to meet the demand and they will cost about \$21 million. The government proposes to pay for them in part from this year's budget and the balance out of next year's budget.

The joint coordinating committee on immigrants of the government and the Jewish Agency has decided to discontinue the bloc transportation of newly arrived immigrants to development areas. The preferences of families for certain regions or climates will be taken into consideration and, if necessary, new arrivals will be split up into several groups or even individual families in an effort to meet their preference. The government and Jewish Agency will continue to supply new immigrants with money, some household goods and a dwelling allotment while they are still at the port of entry.

Find-New Source Of Sweet Water For Potash Plant Near Dead Sea Coast

TEL AVIV, Dec.1(JTA)--Relatively salt free water has been found near the world's saltiest sea, it was announced here today. It was found at a depth of more than 1,200 feet on the south shore of the Dead Sea near the Potash works. The find is expected to yield about 600 cubic meters per hour for use in the potash plant. Experts said it was the least salty water source ever found in the region.

Rome Community Deplores Beating Up Of Arab Student Demonstrators

ROME, Dec.1(JTA)--Rome's Jewish community today officially deplored the beating of six Arab students by Jews near Rome's synagogue after the Arabs participated in an anti-Israel rally of the Communist-sponsored "solidarity with Palestine" group. The beatings took place after a heated discussion between inhabitants of the Jewish quarter and the Arabs. The six students were treated at a near-by hospital.

Trouble was brewing when the Arab students announced earlier that they intended to march to the Jewish quarter. The march was forbidden by police. But anti-Israel leaflets were thrown during a parade of striking workers and an alleged attempt was made to smear the synagogue with political slogans.

The "Solidarity With Palestine" rally, held indoors, was attended by about 300 Arab students and Italian Communist youth. The speakers included two emissaries from El Fatah. The Palestinian guerrilla organization. Their statements were reportedly more moderate than the Italian Communists'. It was learned that after that rally, anti-Communist Arab students decided to disavow the extremists.

Mrs. Meir Sends Condolences To Parents Of Greek Boy Slain In El Al Attack

JERUSALEM, Dec.1(JTA)--Premier Golda Meir today cabled condolences to the father of two year-old George Nastos, the Greek child fatally wounded in last Thursday's grenade attack on the El Al ticket office in Athens by two Jordanian terrorists.

Mrs. Meir's message said, "I am deeply grieved to hear of the death of your dear child, George, a victim of a criminal and insensate act of brutal terrorists. Those responsible for this cowardly and inhuman act have put themselves beyond the pale of civilized society. May God comfort you and your wife in your grief. Every good wish for the rapid recovery of your wife and son, Ananassios."

Meanwhile it was reported that the condition of an American woman, one of 14 persons injured in the attack, has worsened. Doctors in Athens said that Mrs. Nancy McClain, of Dallas, Texas, has developed a clot in her lungs which forced postponement of surgery to remove shrapnel from her body. Mrs. McClain's condition was described as serious.

The two Jordanian suspects in the case were granted a postponement until Tuesday to enter their pleas to various charges including premeditated murder. They are Elias Derkarabetian, 23, who threw the grenade and Mansour Murat, 21, who has been charged as his accomplice.

(The Greek Government announced a ban Monday on entry of all Palestinian Arabs with travel documents instead of regular passports. It warned that further terrorist attacks on Greek soil would lead to "unfavorable political repercussions.")

Police Assert Arab Terrorist Was Disarmed When Rachamim Shot Him

WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND, Dec.1(JTA)--Two police officers and a lieutenant of the Zurich airport fire brigade testified today against Mordechai Rachamim, the El Al security guard who gunned down one of four Arab terrorists attacking an Israeli airliner at the airport last Feb. 18. Rachamim is on trial for manslaughter and faces a sentence of up to five years imprisonment. His lawyer, Hans Meisner, managed to discredit part of the testimony given by the prosecution witnesses by demonstrating that it contradicted statements they had made during the earlier preliminary investigations.

The case hinges on whether Rachamim shot the Arab terrorist deliberately or in self-defense. The Israeli told the court last week that the Arab was carrying a Kalachnikov automatic rifle and made what appeared to be a threatening gesture before he opened fire. The prosecution witnesses testified today that the terrorist was unarmed at the moment he was shot. Lt. Hans Henig, of the fire brigade said that when he arrived on the scene he saw Rachamim shoot an Arab who had his hands in the air. The defense attorney however quoted a previous statements by Henig which indicated that he could not have seen the shooting because he was wrestling at the time with an armed Arab.

A member of the Zurich Cantonal police force testified that he held the Arab terrorist at gun point at a range of less than a yard when Rachamim fired three shots at him in rapid succession. On cross examination, Mr. Meisner brought out the fact that the policeman had made contradictory statements the day after the shooting and again several weeks later before the investigating magistrate. Another policeman, Rudolf Jaeger, admitted under cross examination to more than a dozen contradictions between his earlier statements and the testimony he gave in court today.

Jews Throughout World Prepare To Celebrate Chanukah, Feast Of Lights

NEW YORK, Dec.1(JTA)--Political leaders and Jewish organizations issued greetings today on the occasion of Chanukah, the traditional Festival of Lights, which begins at sundown Thursday, Dec. 4. In a message from Albany, Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, of New York, noted that Chanukah "recalls one of the most brilliant periods in the history of Israel" and added, "I welcome the occasion of Chanukah to send my warm greetings to all worshippers of the Jewish faith, with best wishes for a happy holiday."

Mayor John V. Lindsay, of New York, was scheduled to participate in the annual kindling of the Chanukah menorah in the rotunda of City Hall on Thursday. The Israel Bond Organization of Greater New York held the first of its three annual Chanukah Festivals for Israel at Madison Square Garden tonight. The other performances will be given on Monday, Dec. 15 and Thursday, Jan. 1. The Chanukah Festival is the climax of the Bond Organization's 1969 drive to raise \$35 million for Israel.

New York Israel Bond Sales Pass \$28 Million In 1969

The Greater New York Israel Bond Committee reported tonight that sale of bonds in the first eleven months of 1969 had reached \$28.2 million, exceeding the total for all of 1968 which was \$25.39 million. Except for 1967 when the Six-Day War spurred sales, this has been "the biggest sale in the history of the organization in New York." Max Abrams, chairman of the committee, told the 20,000 bond purchasers attending the Festival at Madison Square Garden.

Philip E. Hoffman, president of the American Jewish Committee, issued a Chanukah message in which he called for reemphasis of "the eternal truth that peace and justice are indivisible." He condemned Arab demands for a solution of the Middle East's problems through "fire and blood" as contrary to the longings of both Christians and Jews for "peace and understanding for all mankind."

The National Jewish Welfare Board announced that Chanukah parties had been arranged for Jewish servicemen in Vietnam and in all other overseas and domestic posts. Gifts and holiday supplies were shipped by local groups in the U.S. affiliated with the JWB Women's Organizations' Services. A "Vietnam Gift Wrap-Up" conducted by the JWB-USO Vietnam Committee of Los Angeles, will bring Chanukah gifts to thousands of Jewish servicemen in the Vietnam area, the JWB said.

American Jewish Congress Calls For Immediate U.S. Withdrawal From Vietnam

NEW YORK, Dec.1(JTA)--The American Jewish Congress, in a resolution adopted by its governing council, called today for "an immediate and total withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam" beginning with "a cessation of all offensive military operations." The resolution charged that there had been "no real progress" toward peace despite the limited reduction in the American military commitment and despite the "rhetoric of hope."

The American Jewish Congress resolution called on the United States to take the initiative in disengagement and not to be bound by the Saigon government in any course of action. It proposed a three-point program; cessation of all offensive military operations; immediate and total withdrawal of American troops, and pressure on Saigon to take steps immediately to form a truly representative government.

The resolution declared that only by immediate withdrawal "can the tragedy that is Vietnam be brought to an end."

Agudath Israel Expresses Support For Nixon On Vietnam Peace Efforts

GREENFIELD, PARK, N.J. Dec.1(JTA)--The 47th national convention of Agudath Israel of America overwhelmingly adopted a resolution expressing support for President Nixon's "intensive efforts to achieve an honorable peace in Vietnam." The resolution declared that "Orthodox Jews overwhelmingly have fullest confidence that the American Government is leaving no stone unturned in a sincere quest to end the war in Vietnam and to bring a just and lasting peace to that war torn region."

The resolution was adopted, with only two dissenting votes, after the convention was told that "the preponderance of Jewish names associated with the anti-Vietnam activities do an untold harm to the Jewish people in this country." The convention was told that "Orthodox Jews who are traditionally committed to a deep patriotic sense of loyalty to the government, must counteract the effects of the damage that the Moratorium and the militants are doing to the Jewish image."

Rabbi Menachem Porush, vice-mayor of Jerusalem, reported to the convention that the Agudath Israel will not enter the new coalition government being formed by Premier Golda Meir. He said the Agudath position was the result of the government's refusal to change the autopsy laws in Israel, to revoke the "indiscriminate" granting of licenses to firms to work on the Sabbath, to halt television programming on the Sabbath and other religious demands which he said "are of major importance if Israel is not to slowly turn into another-Levantian state in the Middle East."

In other actions, the 1,000 delegates attending the parley endorsed a call to Orthodox Jews throughout the world to adopt a "new militant posture of Orthodox self-assertion." Rabbi Moshe Sherer, who was reelected executive president, declared that "a new Torah offensive, utilizing all the tools of modern communication media, can enable classic Judaism to win its due recognition as the only viable form in Jewish life which can assure the continuity of Judaism."

The convention, which closed last night, decided to extend the organization's efforts to obtain Federal and state aid for yeshivas and to "insist upon the state and Federal governments accepting the burden of financing the secular courses provided at the non-public schools."

A message from President Nixon expressed "the gratitude of all Americans to the Agudath Israel Organization for enriching the lives of all citizens by instilling spiritual tenets and moral values in its young people."